Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. September 1881.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(4540.)

F.O.
424

PART LXIV.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

117

August 1881.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
1	To Musurus Pasha ..	..	Aug. 2, 1881	Treatment of Mussulman proprietors in Servia. Matter under consideration. Servian Commissioner appointed to inquire into carrying out of Agrarian Law	1
2	Mr. Kirby Green ..	89 Confidential	July 25,	State of north-east Albania. Measures accomplished there by Dervish Pasha .. .	1
3	To Earl of Dufferin ..	551	Aug. 5,	Rhodope villages. Approves of instructions to Consuls at Philippopoli to consult and report respecting	2
4	Mr. Kirby Green ..	90 Confidential	July 27,	Montenegrin loan raised in Vienna. Secrecy of Austrian officials respecting. Manner in which Prince Nicholas proposes to employ proceeds of	2
5	Vice-Consul Longworth to Earl of Dufferin	27	20,	Reports of acts of brigandage which have taken place during the last month	3
6	Mr. Locock ..	99	28,	Observations on protest of Turkish land-owners respecting proceedings of Servian Agrarian Commission	3
7	Earl of Dufferin ..	628	30,	As to Report of Grand Council appointed to inquire into proceedings connected with recent State trials	5
8	„ „ ..	629	30,	Inclosing account of embarkation of persons condemned at late State trials	6
9	Consul Sandwith ..	40	30,	Cretan affairs. Redistribution of police force. Deficit in Budget for current year. Measures for reducing	7
10	Mr. Kirby Green ..	91	29,	Transmits copy of Proclamation issued to Mussulmans in districts newly ceded to Montenegro	8
11	Mr. Lascelles ..	125	30,	Report respecting arrest and subsequent release of Messrs. Zancoff and Slaveicoff	10
12	„ „ ..	126	Aug. 1,	Composition of new Bulgarian Cabinet ..	10
13	Earl of Dufferin ..	348 Telegraphic	12,	Order given by Porte for liquidation of claims of British subjects, amounting to 280,000*l*. .	11
14	Vice-Consul Blakeney	14	6,	Transmits copy of his despatch to Lord Dufferin respecting a recent fight at Paramithia ..	11
15	Earl of Dufferin ..	660	6,	Mussulman proprietors in Servia. His colleagues have asked for instructions respecting	12
16	„ „ ..	666 Confidential	8,	Reports a disposition on the part of the Porte to release Prenk Bib Doda	3
17	„ „ ..	673	9,	Conversation with Servian Minister respecting question of Servian Agrarian Law ..	14
18	Mr. Wyndham ..	420	11,	Transmits letter published in "St. Petersburgh Vedomosti" respecting views of General Ehrnrooth as to events in Bulgaria and part he took in them	14
19	Mr. Kirby Green ..	94	9,	As to close intercourse between Dervish Pasha and Montenegrin exile, Savo Djourachkovitch	16
20	Mr. Lascelles ..	128	6,	Letter addressed by Prince of Bulgaria to General Ehrnrooth thanking him for his services	17
21	„ „ ..	129	6,	Conversation with Prince Alexander respecting arrest of MM. Zancoff and Slaveicoff ..	17
22	„ „ ..	130	7,	Intention of Bulgarian Government to take immediate steps to put a stop to complaints of Mussulman and Bulgarian inhabitants of Kustendil	18
23	„ „ ..	131	8,	Conversation with Nihad Pasha respecting report that latter had attempted to influence the elections to the Great National Assembly	18
24	Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha	..	11,	Bulgarian Tribute question. (See "Turkey Finance)"	19

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
25	To Mr. Macdonell ..	355	Aug. 20, 1881	Satisfaction at cordial support given by Count Corti to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople	19
26	Consul-General Jones	41	11,	Russian relations with Eastern Roumelia and with Bulgaria. Incidents illustrating ..	20
27	Earl of Dufferin ..	690	15,	Assim Pasha has repeated his assurances that sentences passed on Janina merchants will be commuted	21
28	„ „ ..	694	16,	Assurances received from Porte that certain British claims, amounting to 280,000*l.*, will be paid	21
29	„ „ ..	695	16,	Conversation with Assim Pasha respecting Prenk Bib Doda	21
30	Mr. Wyndham ..	436	17,	Satisfaction of M. de Giers at contents of papers laid before Parliament respecting Bulgaria	22
31	Musurus Pasha ..	..	20,	Transmits Turkish assent to acts elaborated by Delimitation Commissioners under Berlin Treaty	22
32	Mr. Locock ..	Telegraphic	22,	Mussulman proprietors in Servia have petitioned that all further proceedings of existing Commission may be stopped	23
33	To Earl of Dufferin ..	593	22,	Approves language held to Bulgarian Agent as reported in his despatch No. 554 of the 4th instant	23
34	„ „ ..	596	22,	Approves language held by him to Servian Minister, as reported in No. 17	23
35	„ „ ..	413 Telegraphic	23,	Montenegrin frontier. Would it be any use Major Sale coming to Constantinople? ..	23
36	Earl of Dufferin ..	353 Telegraphic	25,	Major Sale's presence will not advance matters (see No. 35)	24
37	To Mr. Kirby Green..	33	25,	Prince's proclamation to Mussulman emigrants, inviting them to return. Approves his reminder to Montenegrin Government respecting (see No. 10)	24
38	Major Ardagh ..	21 Confidential	11,	Relative to brigandage in Albania	24
39	Mr. Locock ..	100 Confidential	11,	Servian Agrarian Law question. His French, German, and Italian colleagues deprecate the idea of any formal or concerted action respecting	26
40	„ „ ..	102	13,	Servian Agrarian Law. Conversation with M. Pirochanatz respecting	26
41	„ „ ..	104 Confidential	21,	Servian Agrarian Law. Substance of despatch addressed to his Government by Turkish Envoy respecting	27
42	„ „ ..	105	22,	Forwards copy of telegram from dispossessed Turkish land-owners to Representatives of Great Powers at Belgrade	27
43	„ „ ..	107	22,	Views expressed by his French colleague and himself to Turkish Envoy with reference to above	28
44	„ „ ..	108 Confidential	22,	Substance of Report addressed by his Italian colleague to his Government respecting petition of Turkish proprietors in district ceded to Servia	28
45	„ „ ..	110	24,	Reply of Servian Government to telegram from Turkish land-owners at Lescovatz ..	29
46	Earl of Dufferin ..	701	18,	Sixty battalions of Redifs disbanded in Albania, Thessaly, and Epirus	29
47	„ „ ..	725	23,	Transmits copy of note from Porte respecting payment of British claims (see No. 28) ..	29
48	To Musurus Pasha ..	..	25,	Acknowledging receipt of No. 31 .. .	31
49	Consul Sandwith ..	41	18,	Importance of Porte confirming certain measures voted by General Assembly of the Cretans. Despatch to Lord Dufferin respecting ..	31
50	To Earl of Dufferin ..	613	31,	Bulgarian Tribute question. (For further correspondence on this subject, see "Turkey Finance")	33
51	To Musurus Pasha ..	..	31,	Bulgarian Tribute (see above)	33

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. September 1881.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part LXIV.

No. 1.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

Foreign Office, August 2, 1881.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

WITH reference to the telegram from your Government communicated to me by your Excellency on the 28th ultimo relative to the treatment of the Mussulman proprietors in Servia by the authorities of the Principality, I have the honour to state that the matter is receiving the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, who have recently been informed by Her Majesty's Minister at Belgrade that a Judge in the Court of Appeal has been appointed Commissioner of Control by the Servian Government to inquire into the proceedings of the existing Commission for carrying out the Agrarian Law.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 2.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 89. Confidential.)

Scutari, July 25, 1881.

My Lord,

FROM a very influential Mahommedan Albanian, who has been for some time past with Dervish Pasha, I learn that this General may now be said to have carried out pretty well all he is ever likely to accomplish in North-east Albania. He has re-established the Ottoman authorities in all the towns; collected most of the arrears of taxes; enforced the conscription; and prohibited the carriage of arms wherever his garrisons are present.

On the other hand, in the rural districts and among the mountain tribes Ottoman control is as much absent as it ever was before recent events; and the antipathy to the Turkish Government, instead of having diminished, continues daily to gain ground, and is sure to become apparent whenever the Porte is again involved in difficulties.

I think it is possible that the above Albanian measure of the native temper may prove somewhat defective, for the material interests of the feudal Chiefs would probably disincline them to come into actual collision with Ottoman strength. But there can be no doubt that the natives are quite right in feeling despair of ever progressing or obtaining anything stable in the shape of government under the auspices of Dervish Pasha, or any other High Commissioner of the same school.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 3.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 551.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 5, 1881.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 600 of the 24th ultimo, reporting upon an interview which Mr. Plunkett had with the Minister for Foreign Affairs regarding the unsatisfactory position of the twenty-four villages of the Rhodope which, though within the Eastern Roumelian territory, have refused to recognize the authority of the Provincial Government.

I approve the instructions which your Excellency informs me have been given to the Consuls of the Powers at Philippopoli to confer with each other and with the Provincial Government, and then to state their views on the question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 4.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 90. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July* 27, 1881.

IN acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 25, Confidential, of the 15th instant, on the subject of the reported failure to Sir Henry Elliot of M. Radonich's attempt to negotiate a loan in Vienna, I trust your Lordship will not consider it quite unnecessary for me to notice that, in all matters relating to the existing intercourse between Austria and the Principality, a great desire is evinced by the Austrian officials to envelop their proceedings in mystery.

Your Lordship is already aware, through the receipt of my despatch No. 83 of the 12th instant, that every facility was accorded in Vienna to enable M. Radonich to carry his mission to its successful end; and I have now only to add that there was never any question of applying the proceeds of the loan to road-making, as ample means had already been provided for that purpose, both by the Principality and the Austrian Government; and all the roads under construction will be most probably completed before the end of the autumn.

Prince Nicholas told me that with a portion of the loan he hoped to pay the debt he had incurred in Russia during the winter of 1879-80 for the purchase of Indian corn to preserve his people from famine. I also learnt that immediately on the completion of the loan a commission had been given at Vienna to the Imperial contractors for 4,000,000 cartridges for the 24,000 rifles purchased last year, in order to raise the quantity in the Montenegrin magazines to 10,000,000.

In connection with this military augmentation, I venture to recall your Lordship's attention to the present of 4,000,000 cartridges received by Prince Nicholas from the Austrian Government eighteen months ago (see my despatches Nos. 16 and 27 of the 20th January and 1st February, 1880), and to the fact that upwards of 32,000 breech-loading rifles already existed in Montenegro for the use of its 22,000 fighting men before the introduction of the last supply of 24,000 rifles.

The only mention made to me in Cettinjé of a new road was concerning the pressure which Baron Thoemmel, the Austrian Minister-Resident, was putting on the Prince to consent to allow the Austrian Government to construct gratuitously for Montenegro a carriage road from the port of Risano, in the Bocche di Cattaro, to the newly-annexed Montenegrin town of Nicksič. The Prince, being aware that such a road would enable the Austrians to obtain a complete control over many of Boechese highland tribes, and also an easy entry into some of the wildest districts of the Herzegovine, was said to be most determined not to accept the Austrian offer; but I have no doubt that His Highness is already so deeply engaged, both financially and politically, with the Imperial and Royal Government, that if the latter really wishes to construct the road, it will quickly be in possession of the desired permission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 5.

Vice-Consul Longworth to the Earl of Dufferin.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 8.)

(No. 27.) *Larissa, July* 20, 1881.
My Lord,

IN addition to the ten acts of brigandage reported in my previous despatch of the 13th instant, the following have also occurred during the course of this month :—

1. July 12. A Greek lad captured by Greek brigands at Sellechani, in Aghia district.

2. July 13. Ten Albanian brigands amused themselves by stripping a Greek priest naked, near Mevoliani, in Aghia district.

3. July 14. A Turk killed and 2 Greeks captured by 30 Greek brigands at Thessani, in Aghia district.

4. July 16. A Greek captured by Greek brigands at Bahrina, in Larissa district.

5. July 18. Turk captured by Greek brigands in the town of Karditza.

Within the last seven days 2 soldiers were killed; while, among the brigands, 3 were wounded, 3 captured, and 39 have surrendered themselves to the authorities.

The average number of brigand cases now seems to be five per week, instead of five per day, as in June.

The improvement is great, but I have little hope of its lasting long, unless the Hellenic Government adopts likewise some measures towards the suppression of the evil; such, for instance, as a warning in the public press that any crimes committed in the territory ceded to Greece would henceforo be viewed as perpetrated within the Kingdom of Greece, and as liable to the penalties enjoined by the laws of Greece, for an idea prevails in Thessaly that the Hellenic Government will inaugurate the new era by according a general amnesty to all malefactors, and thus many are tempted to acts of violence and rapacity while the country is yet under Ottoman rule.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 6.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 99.) *Belgrade, July* 28, 1881.
My Lord,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 32 of the 15th instant, transmitting a protest from certain Turkish landowners in the recently annexed Servian territory, complaining of the proceedings of the Servian Agrarian Commission, and of the injustice of the Agrarian Law passed in February of last year, and alleged by them to be contrary to the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am instructed by your Lordship to furnish any observations I may have to offer on the subject of the protest.

The complaints of the Turkish landowners in Servia have already occupied my notice, as your Lordship will perceive from my despatches No. 89 of the 1st instant and No. 98 of the 15th instant, and I have spoken on the matter, not only frequently with the Turkish Envoy, who first drew my attention to them, but also with M. Mijatovich, and later with M. Pirochanatz, by whom his Excellency has been temporarily replaced in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The protest addressed to your Lordship is against the Law, and also against the mode in which it is enforced by the Agrarian Commission.

As regards the first, the particular complaints are not in all respects borne out by the terms of the Agrarian Law as I find them in the translation transmitted to your Lordship in Mr. Gould's despatch No. 16 of the 29th February, 1880.

But it might perhaps be misleading to attach much importance to this circumstance. The Law is a long one, and its terms may not be entirely comprehended by the Turkish landowners, who also complain that it assumes a kind of tenure almost unknown in the district. At all events, if its provisions are, as asserted, systematically ignored and disregarded by the Servian Commission itself, it can hardly be wondered at if they are misunderstood by the Turkish landowners.

To take an example, the protest declares :—

"The Agrarian Law makes no distinction (as to the kinds of tenure), and the

Agrarian Commission sells without distinction all the properties under the same title."

The latter assertion may be quite accurate, but the former is hardly so, for the different properties are classified and treated differently in the Law itself, *vide* Articles 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 38, and 39.

But as regards the broader complaint that the Agrarian Law is not in accord with the Berlin Treaty, it would certainly appear to be not without some good foundation.

There is but one passage in the Treaty which bears directly on the subject, but its terms are simple and its object evident. It forms the first paragraph of Article XXXIX, and reads thus:—

"Mussulmans in possession of property in the territories annexed to Servia, and who wish to reside outside the Principality, can retain their real property either by farming them out or by having them administered by third parties."

On the other hand, the whole object of the Agrarian Law seems to be to oblige the landlords to transfer their property to the tenants. There are indeed one or two Articles which exclude a certain class of tenure or land from the operation of the Law, but not one which provides them the means (which was so much wanted) of recovering possession of the lands of which they had become dispossessed during the war, so that they might "farm them out, or have them administered by third parties."

The reason assigned for the compulsory character of the Agrarian Law is that by far the greater portion of the lands which previous to the war were held by the Mussulmans were not their real property at all, but were merely held by them as tenants of the Sultan as lord paramount and by virtue of grants, direct or indirect, from him; that in most cases the lands were at the time of the grants, and still are, cultivated by peasants residing thereon under various obligations either of labour or of payment of rent in money or in kind. It is maintained that the tenants thus have rights in the land not inferior, and, in many cases, superior to those of the Turkish landlord, and that the Law in reality only establishes and enforces those rights by giving the peasant the option of purchasing the fee-simple from the landlord.

Such would appear to be the view which was taken of the Law by Mr. Vice-Consul Baker in the Report dated Nisch, 23rd February, 1880, to which your Lordship calls my attention. The question of the real kinds of tenure and their origin in the district referred to is one of simple fact, of which I have hardly the means here of forming a judgment. Mr. Baker states in the third paragraph of his Report that nearly all small estates have fallen under the tenure known as "Yospodarlik." On the other hand, I am most confidently assured by others who have every claim to my reliance on their knowledge and their word, that the opposite is the case, and that farms on which the power of ejectment of the tenant does not exist, and of which the Turkish landlord himself is only a holder under the Sultan, are extremely rare.

As regards the second cause of complaint, namely, the abuses committed by the Agrarian Commission in carrying out the Law, I have reason to believe that it is as the Petitioners state. I have already had the honour, in my despatch No. 89 of the 1st instant, to mention the unjust and high-handed manner in which the Turks are treated by the Commission. Complaints are reaching the Ottoman Legation here daily. Both Khalid Bey and the Ottoman Consul-General at Nisch have described to me in detail the acts of illegality which are being continually committed.

At the suggestion of Khalid Bey, I have to-day had an interview with two of the dispossessed Turkish proprietors who have come to the capital to lodge their complaints. The one is, or at least was until the war, the owner of 8,000 dulums of land, and the other of not less than 22,000 dulums, representing values, taken at the lowest estimate, of many thousands of pounds. On the outbreak of the war they had to flee from the country, and after peace had been signed, and they returned to regain possession of their property, they found it in the hands of others whose claims the Commission considered superior to their own. They assured me that from before the war up to this moment they had not received any rent for their lands from those who had been enjoying the use of them, and that though for a whole year they had been trying to come to some compromise, they had neither been allowed by the Commission to enter into possession of any part, nor had they received a single piastre for rent or sale. They are thus left almost destitute. Their ownership is not even recognized by the Commission, in spite of the title-deeds which they present. Once, indeed, about a year ago, an order came from the Ministry of Finance that any Turk presenting his

genuine title-deeds was to be reinstated, and at least one reinstatement was actually effected under this order, but one or two days subsequently he was ejected, and the Secretary of the Commission, through whom the existence of the order had come to the knowledge of the Turks, was relieved of his functions.

The rule now laid down would seem to be that the tenants in possession are the assumed rightful owners, and that the Turkish landlord who holds the title-deeds must have recourse to the ordinary Tribunal at Nisch to sue for possession, but must commence by depositing a sum representing half the value of the land which he is bringing into litigation—a condition with which in hardly any case is he in a condition to comply.

I have already had the honour to report to your Lordship that in consequence of the strong and repeated representations of the Turkish Envoy here, the Servian Government have recently sent a Commissioner of Control to examine the complaints brought against the Agrarian Commission, and I believe that the Servian Government are sincerely desirous that he should do his duty without favour or prejudice, and that if the abuses so confidently alleged have actually been committed by the Commission, effectual means should be taken to prevent the probability of their recurrence.

I have not been able to ascertain that any one of the persons who attached their seals to the Protest is in the capital; but some of them are at Nisch, and I therefore intend to intrust the letter of acknowledgment, which your Lordship has caused to be addressed to them, to the care of Mr. Vice-Consul Baker, who will be passing through here in a day or two on his return to his post, and will thus have an opportunity of seeing one or more of the Petitioners, and inquiring further than I have been able to do into their complaints.

I have the honour to return herewith the original Protest which formed the inclosure in your Lordship's despatch, to which this is a reply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 7.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 628.) *Therapia, July 30, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE been informed that, when the Grand Council of Ministers and ex-Ministers appointed to consider the proceedings connected with the recent State trials reported to the Sultan the division which had taken place among its members on the question of confirming the verdict of the Criminal Court, His Majesty intimated that he required a unanimous decision. Upon this, those who had voted for the execution of the prisoners abandoned their position, and rallied to the side of the minority who had advocated a more lenient policy.

In a very confidential conversation that took place between Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, Minister of the Interior, and Sir Alfred Sandison, his Excellency admitted that he had voted for the carrying out of the capital sentence; but he said that, knowing beforehand that His Majesty intended to commute it, his object in acting as he did was to bring out into greater relief the merciful disposition of his Sovereign.

There has appeared, however, an official communication on the subject, published this morning in the Turkish journals, giving a somewhat different account of the affair.

It is there stated that two of the condemned Pashas, Mahmoud Damat and Nouri Damat, having made a confession of their guilt, had appealed to the clemency of the Sultan, on the ground that they had acted under superior orders; and that the Grand Council, having examined their statement, and having come to the conclusion that the prisoners had committed the crime under the express directions of the ex-Sultan Murad, petitioned His Majesty for a commutation of the sentence.

I subjoin an extract from the "Stamboul," giving the foregoing account.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Extract from the "Stamboul" of July 29, 1881.

UNE communication officielle, publiée ce matin par les journaux Turcs, porte à la connaissance du public qu'après la confirmation par la Cour de Cassation de l'Arrêt de Malta-Kiosk, Mahmoud et Nouri Pachas ont fait des aveux.

Les deux condamnés ont adressé, dit la communication officielle, une pétition à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, dans laquelle ils déclarent qu'ils ont fait perpétrer le crime sur l'ordre suprême de l'ex-Sultan Mourad, et sollicitent la clémence miséricordieuse du Souverain.

Prenant cette pétition en considération, le Souverain a convoqué au Palais un Grand Conseil chargé d'examiner minutieusement et avec impartialité le Jugement ainsi que la pétition remise par les deux condamnés.

Le Grand Conseil s'est réuni au Palais, et a délibéré pendant quelques séances sur le Jugement et la pétition susmentionnés.

Les membres du Conseil ont décidé que les condamnés ont commis ce crime sur l'ordre exprès de l'ex-Sultan Mourad. Se basant sur cette circonstance, ils ont sollicité la clémence de Sa Majesté afin qu'elle commue leur peine.

En conséquence, dit toujours la communication précitée, le Souverain a décrété, sur la sollicitation du Grand Conseil, la commutation de leur peine en celle de l'exil, à Taïf (Hedjaz).

Les détails de cette épilogue du procès seront livrés prochainement à la publicité.

No. 8.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 629.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 30, 1881.

I HAVE already had the honour to inform your Lordship, by telegram, that the capital sentence upon the persons condemned at the recent State trials has been commuted into banishment to Taïf, a place 200 miles from Mecca.

I have now the honour to inclose an account, published in the newspapers, of the embarkation of the prisoners.

I am told that Taïf is a remarkably healthy and by no means an unpleasant place of residence; but it is rumoured that the destination of Midhat is to be different from that of the other prisoners, and that he will be sent to an island in the Ægean.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Extract from the "Stamboul" of July 29, 1881.

LE PROCÈS D'ÉTAT.—Hier, à 9 heures du soir, a eu lieu le départ, pour leurs lieux d'exil, des condamnés du Procès d'Etat.

A 5 heures, les deux côtés de la grande chaussée de Yildiz, depuis Malta-Kiosk jusqu'à la station de Tramways d'Ortakeuï, et de cette dernière station jusqu'au dernier pavillon du Palais de Tchéragan, appelé pavillon de Férié, et cité plusieurs fois au cours des débats, était échelonné un cordon de troupes baïonnette au fusil.

Bien qu'il n'y ait jamais beaucoup de monde sur cette route, sauf les rares passants qui habitent cette partie du faubourg, et les soldats bivouaquant sur les hauteurs de Yildiz, de fortes patrouilles parcouraient constamment cette chaussée.

Vers 7 heures du soir, six voitures fermées du Palais, contenant tous les condamnés du Procès d'Etat, sortaient du Parc de Yildiz, par la porte donnant sur le corps de garde de Malta Kiosk, non loin duquel s'est réuni le Tribunal extraordinaire.

Aux deux côtés de chaque voiture se tenaient trois zaptiés, l'arme au bras, et aux deux portières de chacune d'elles étaient des gardiens du Palais dits "tufenkdjis." Cette file de voitures était entourée de gendarmes à cheval.

Sur l'un des côtés du cortège se tenait à cheval Hassan Pacha, Chef de la Police

de Béchiktach et Aide-de-camp du Sultan; et de l'autre côté, le Colonel Commandant la cavalerie Circassienne, également Aide-de-camp de Sa Majesté.

Derrière cet officier venaient le Colonel Ali Bey, du corps de troupes du camp de Yildiz, ainsi que d'autres officiers et fonctionnaires civils du Palais, les uns à pied, les autres à cheval.

Dans la première voiture se trouvait, seul, Midhat Pacha, tenant en main un paquet de livres.

L'ex-Grand Vizir paraissait fort calme; aucune trace d'émotions ne se voyait sur sa figure. Il regardait les spectateurs, lesquels l'observaient avec une curiosité facile à comprendre.

Dans la voiture suivante se trouvait Mahmoud Djélaleddin Pacha, qui avait baissé les stores.

Dans la troisième se tenait Nouri Pacha, dont le visage altéré exprimait une extrême angoisse.

Dans la quatrième se trouvaient Fahri, Nedjib, et Ali Beys, ce dernier fils de Namyk Pacha. Fahri paraissait brisé par l'émotion, et avait la tête penchée sur la poitrine.

Dans la cinquième se trouvaient les deux Moustaphas et Hadji Mehmed, lesquels semblaient regarder le public avec une provocante indifférence.

Dans la sixième étaient les autres condamnés, plus ou moins tristes, et se cachant de temps à autre la figure avec leurs mouchoirs.

Dans les trois dernières voitures se trouvaient quelques domestiques des trois Pachas, qui suivent leurs maîtres en exil; ils tenaient en main de volumineux paquets, contenant du linge et divers menus objets, mais seulement le strict nécessaire.

Le cortége marcha lentement; traversant la chaussée de Yildiz, il descendit la pente raide de Tach-Merdiven jusqu'à la station des Tramways, où s'était massée une foule de curieux, puis, longeant à droite la grande chaussée de Tchéragan, entra dans la cour du corps de garde Azizié, située au bord de la mer, et attenant au pavillon de Férié, résidence actuelle de la famille du Sultan Aziz.

Le Général Tewfik Pacha et quelques autres officiers supérieurs attendaient les condamnés.

Deux grands bateaux mouches étaient amarrés au quai.

On fit d'abord descendre de voiture les trois Pachas, lesquels furent embarqués sur la première mouche, et les autres sur la seconde, à bord de laquelle prirent place tous les zaptiés et autres officiers préposés à la surveillance des détenus.

Les deux mouches quittèrent aussitôt la rive, et se dirigèrent vers le yacht Impérial "Izeddin," ancré devant Cabatch, et qui attendait sous vapeur.

De nombreuses embarcations de la Marine Impériale à dix avirons interceptaient la circulation depuis Cabatch jusqu'à Tchéragan.

Au moment où l'escorte montait à bord de "l'Izeddin," le canon annonçait qu'il était 2 heures, et tout le monde a fait l'iftar à bord du yacht.

Une heure après, le yacht quittait son mouillage à destination de Djeddah, d'où les condamnés seront conduits à Taïf, à 200 kilom. de la Mecque.

No. 9.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 40.) *Canea, Crete, July* 30, 1881.

My Lord,

SINCE the dissolution of the General Assembly of the Cretans on the 18th ultimo, some of the measures voted by it not requiring the Imperial confirmation have been put into execution. One of these was that forbidding the local police to serve in their own districts. A month has now elapsed since, in accordance with that measure, a complete displacement of the gendarmerie has been effected, the Canea force having been ordered to Rethymo, that of Candia to Canea, and that of Rethymo to Candia, the police of the other districts having been similarly redistributed. It is yet too soon to pronounce a decided opinion as to whether the measure will be productive of more good than ill. At the outset great inconvenience has been caused by the ignorance of the transported zaptiehs of their districts, as well as of the criminal classes, if one should employ so severe a term to designate sheep-stealers and ruffians, who now find that they can elude the efforts of the new police to catch them. This is an evil which every day's experience will naturally diminish, though it seems likely that the new

arrangement will be attended with an increase of robbery and petty offences, at least for a time. The motive which induced the Assembly to vote the displacement of the gendarmerie was that they were said to be in the habit of shielding their relations who had made themselves obnoxious to the law from the consequences of their conduct. During the past year the force has been paid with a punctuality which has had the natural effect of securing good service; and if law and order are to be preserved it is essential that no irregularity in payment should occur.

I beg to recall to your Lordship's memory that the Budget for the current year records a deficit of 3,027,788 piastres, in spite of the most stringent measures of the Assembly for cutting down the expenses. The receipts are expected to yield only 5,740,000 piastres, while the expenses amount to 8,761,000 piastres. To reduce this deficit the Assembly counts on half the proceeds of the customs dues, in conformity with Article XIII of the Convention of 1878, which provides that, in those years in which a deficit declares itself, the Porte will yield as much as half the customs to aid in covering it: 1,750,000 piastres being the estimated half, the deficit will be reduced to 1,277,788 piastres. Photiades Pasha seems to apprehend that the Porte may demur to parting with any of the customs, and the grounds for his apprehension are explained in my despatch No. 35 of the 20th ultimo, where I state that the Assembly declined to treat as surplus in last year's Budget a sum of 1,800,000 piastres, being the difference arising from reckoning the Turkish lira at 120 piastres and reckoning it at 100. The employés had been paid at the former rate, an economy to the above amount having thereby been effected, and this economy has been realized for the benefit of the island and not of the Porte, the above sum having been voted by the Assembly for education, instead of being considered as surplus, and, as such, going to diminish this year's deficit.

Photiades Pasha intends to proceed to Constantinople in about three weeks' time, in order to induce Ministers to sanction the several Bills passed by the General Assembly; and his Excellency is more particularly anxious that the right of his Administration to draw on the Customs revenues should be acknowledged. If it be contested and finally rejected, there is a fear lest, besides the certainty of the pay of the police falling into arrears, a dangerous agitation will be carried on by the leading Christians, without whose concurrence and assistance it is impossible for the new organization to work with anything like efficiency. I trust that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople will concur with your Lordship in considering that there is legitimate ground for urging on the Porte the fulfilment of Article XIII of the Convention of 1878 above mentioned, more especially as Her Majesty's Government was instrumental by its mediation in bringing about its accomplishment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 10.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 11.)*

(No. 91.)

Scutari, July 29, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a French translation, communicated to me by the Montenegrin Government, of a Proclamation addressed on the 25th instant by Prince Nicholas to the Mahommedans who have emigrated from the towns and districts newly annexed to the Principality.

This Proclamation has, I understand, been published at the instance of Riza Bey, the Turkish Envoy at Cettinjé, who has been anxious to obtain an acknowledgment from the Prince that the Decrees of confiscation, and other penal enactments, issued during the difficulties which arose whilst some of the cessions were pending, are of no effect.

Although it is possible the rather inflated language of the Proclamation may cause irritation in certain Mussulman circles, still Prince Nicholas has given by it another proof of his desire to act with justice and liberality towards those who have recently come under his jurisdiction.

I believe that most of the emigrants who possess property will avail themselves of the facilities now offered to them, whilst those who are indigent will not return, but remain on Ottoman territory, in the hope of obtaining some of the rewards and compensation so largely promised to them by the Turkish authorities when they first emigrated from their homes.

The delay of six months granted by the Proclamation to emigrants to decide finally on their return, of course can in no way affect the rights secured by the XXXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin to Mussulman and other proprietors who may wish to take up their residence outside the Principality, and I have, therefore, in acknowledging the receipt of a copy of the Proclamation sent to me, made an observation in this sense to the Montenegrin Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Proclamation.

(Traduction.)

NOUS, Nicolas I, par la Grâce de Dieu, Prince Régnant de Monténégro:

Aux émigrés Musulmans Monténégrins!

Par notre Proclamation du 18 Novembre, 1880, adressée à nos sujets Musulmans des territoires annexés, nous avons octroyé une amnestie pleine et entière à tous ceux d'entre eux qui étaient compromis ou bien inculpés de crimes politiques: trahison et connivence avec l'ennemi.

Quand nous grâcions, nous grâcions entièrement, et beaucoup de ceux sur lesquels pesaient de graves inculpations ont déjà profité de notre grâce souveraine et sont paisiblement rentrés dans leurs foyers.

Emigrés Musulmans! Invoquez le témoinage des plus riches et des plus notables de vos coreligionnaires restés ou rentrés dans leur nouvelle patrie; demandez leur s'ils ont à se plaindre de la moindre vexation de la part de nos autorités, et suivez leur exemple. Cessez de peupler en vagabonds les provinces de l'Empire voisin auquel vous êtes à charge, et confiez vous à notre magnanimité.

Nous vous engageons tous, sans exception, de rentrer chez vous, et vous promettons la libre jouissance de vos biens et de tous les droits que vous accorde le Traité de Berlin, et les lois de la Principauté. Votre nouvelle patrie vous recevra comme des enfants prodigues et vous pourrez finalement mener une existence paisible et assurée.

Notre chère patrie a besoin de bras pour pouvoir maintenir sa place à l'extérieur, et pour augmenter son bien-être intérieur. Nous vous invitons pour la dernière fois de profiter de nos dispositions paternelles et vous accordons pour effectuer votre retour un délai de six mois à partir d'aujourd'hui.

Emigrés Musulmans! Ceux d'entre vous qui ont quitté leurs biens avec l'autorisation de nos autorités, à la garde desquelles ils ont confié leurs immeubles, continueront à percevoir de leurs anciens fermiers qui cultivaient leurs terres avant l'annexation de ces territoires à la Principauté, et les cultivent maintenant, les mêmes redevances comme avant l'émigration, et des nouveaux fermiers Monténégrins qui ont occupé les terres des émigrés Turcs n'ayant pas eu de fermiers, les propriétaires toucheront le quart des revenus perçus durant tout le temps de leur absence de notre Principauté. Quant à l'avenir, vous vous entendrez librement avec vos fermiers tant anciens que nouveaux, pour la redevance qu'ils auront à vous payer.

Emigrés Musulmans! Il y en a parmi vous qui n'ont pas voulu annoncer leur départ à nos autorités, mais ont quitté leurs foyers et leurs champs ensemencés et en friche à l'insu de ces autorités, sans leur autorisation et clandestinement. Nos autorités ne pourront être responsables vis-à-vis de ceux-là pour les revenus quelconques jusqu'aujourd'hui, mais chacun de ceux qui répondront à notre appel paternel et rentreront, recevront tous leurs biens et pourront en disposer à l'avenir comme tous les autres Monténégrins.

Emigrés Musulmans! Beaucoup d'entre vous ont quitté leurs foyers pour se soustraire à la loi Monténégrine sur l'enseignement scolaire, dans l'idée que cette loi empiéte sur le libre enseignement de votre religion. Mais je vous fais savoir que cette loi, tout en obligeant tous mes sujets d'envoyer leurs enfants à l'école, a été rédigé expressément pour vous de manière d'exclure toute immixtion des autorités scolaires dans le mode de l'enseignement religieux.

Emigrés Musulmans! Après la remise du district de Podgoritza et autres, vous avez été désarmés, et vos armes sont gardés dans les dépôts de Podgoritza. Non-

seulement ces armes vous seront rendues, mais encore notre Gouvernement vous considérant comme de bons sujets qui lui seront désormais fidèles, vous distribuera les mêmes fusils avec lesquels sont armés tous nos chers sujets.

Emigrés Musulmans! réfléchissez bien au contenu de notre présente Proclamation, rentrez dans la bonne voie, revenez pour jouir du bien-être, d'une existence assurée, et du bonheur domestique dont vous vous étiez vous-mêmes privés depuis si longtemps.

Donné à Cettinjé, le 13 Juillet de l'An de Grâce 1881, et de notre règne la vingt et unième année.

(Signé) PRINCE NICOLAS.

No. 11.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 125.)

My Lord, *Sophia, July* 30, 1881.

ON my return to Sophia yesterday afternoon I found a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, instructing me to report to your Lordship whether the report which had appeared in the "Times" with regard to the arrest of MM. Zancoff and Slaveicoff at Plevna was correct.

This morning I called upon M. Stoiloff, the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and requested him to furnish me with the necessary information to enable me to carry out these instructions. M. Stoiloff said that he was not acquainted with the details of what had taken place, or with the reasons which had led to the arrest and release of MM. Zancoff and Slaveicoff. He promised, however, to make inquiries and let me know the result at once. This afternoon M. Hranoff, the Director-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, called upon me by M. Stoiloff's orders, and gave me the information contained in my previous despatch, which had been furnished to M. Stoiloff by the Minister of the Interior. M. Hranoff added that a telegram had just been received from eighty-five Mayors of the district and neighbourhood of Plevna, in which they express their devotion to the Prince and their regret that they should have been led away by the influence of agitators.

In answer to questions which I put to him, M. Hranoff said that it had been reported that MM. Zancoff and Slaveicoff had advised the people in various places not to pay their taxes, but he could not tell me positively whether such advice had been given. He was also unable to tell me whether it was true that MM. Zancoff and Slaveicoff had been informed that they would not be allowed to return to Sophia, and would be kept under surveillance in any town in the Principality which they might select for their residence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 12.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 126.)

My Lord, *Sophia, August* 1, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note which I have received from M. Stoiloff, announcing the formation of the new Bulgarian Cabinet, the composition of which I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 119 of the 16th ultimo. It appears that M. Stoiloff has not been appointed definitely as Minister of Foreign Affairs, but has been placed in charge of the Foreign Department as Acting Minister.

I have also the honour to inclose a copy of the reply which I have addressed to M. Stoiloff.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 12.

M. Stoiloff to Mr. Lascelles.

Sophia, le 19 *Juillet*, 1881.

M. l'Agent,

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que Son Altesse mon auguste Maître a, par Décret du $\frac{2}{14}$ Juillet, daté de Sistow, formé son Conseil des Ministres. Sont nommés :—

M. Geleskowitsch, Ministre des Finances.

M. le Général Krilow, Ministre de la Guerre.

M. le Dr. Iretchek, Ministre de l'Instruction Publique.

M. le Dr. Constantin Stoiloff, Gérant du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et des Cultes.

M. le Colonel Remlingen, Gérant Provisoire au Ministère de l'Intérieur.

J'ai pris possession de mon Ministère, et je suis très heureux de voir se renouer les rapports trop courts que j'ai entretenus avec vous lorsque j'ai géré momentanément le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères. Tous mes efforts tendront à entretenir les meilleures relations avec MM. les Représentants accrédités auprès de Son Altesse, et j'ose espérer, M. l'Agent, que vous voudrez bien me continuez cette bienveillance, que je sais hautement apprécier.

Je saisis, &c.

(Signé) C. STOILOFF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 12.

Mr. Lascelles to M. Stoiloff.

Sophia, le 1er *Août*, 1881.

M. le Gérant,

A MON retour à Sophia j'ai trouvé la note que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser, en date du 19 Juillet, pour m'informer que Son Altesse le Prince de Bulgarie avait, par Décret du $\frac{2}{14}$ Juillet, daté de Sistow, formé son Conseil des Ministres.

Je suis heureux, M. le Gérant, de me trouver encore une fois en communication officielle avec vous, et je suis convaincu que les bonnes relations qui ont existées entre nous lors de votre première gérance du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères seront maintenues.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 13.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 12, 5·45 P.M.)

(No. 348.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August* 12, 1881, 2·45 P.M.

AN assurance has been transmitted to me by the Prime Minister that the Porte will at once proceed to liquidate the claims of English subjects, which I have been pressing, as noted in my despatches Nos. 591 and 615, amounting to 280,000*l*. The order given to this effect to the Treasury, and signed by the Prime Minister, has been seen.

No. 14.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 13.)

(No. 14.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, August* 6, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of my despatch of to-day's date, and of its inclosure, to the Earl of Dufferin, relating to a fight which appears to have recently taken place at Paramithia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 14.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Prevesa, August* 6, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith translation of Mr. Kypriotis' despatch of the 27th ultimo, reporting a fight which appears to have recently taken place at Paramithia between Mustafá Pronio and Suleiman Dino. As the former is notorious for his brutality, I am almost convinced that the fight was provoked by him.

I have frequently had occasion to report his villanous conduct to your Excellency's predecessors, by whom I have reason to believe representations have been duly made to the Porte, but unfortunately, instead of bringing upon him condign punishment, or at least ridding the country for a time of his obnoxious presence, he was of late released from prison and intrusted with the command of a body of irregulars at Paramithia (his native town), where he has since carried everything with a high hand.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 14.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Janina, July* 27, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that a battle, which lasted two hours, was fought a few days ago at Paramithia between Mustafá Pronio and Suleiman Dino. The result is not exactly known, although it is said that men have fallen on both sides, but it appears that they have been carefully concealed.

During this state of affairs the market was closed, and communication through two of the principal streets was put a stop to by the two above individuals.

Mustafá Pronio came here yesterday, accompanied by several of his "palikars," all armed. It appears that he has been ordered here by the authorities. The worst is that he is protected by the Commander of the troops.

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 15.

E *The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.*—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 660.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 6, 1881.

IN accordance with the terms of your Lordship's despatch No. 486 of the 15th July, I have brought the complaints of the Mahommedan proprietors of Servia, in reference to the agrarian law recently passed by the Legislature of that Principality, and the unjust manner in which its provisions are being applied, under the notice of the Ambassadors.

Finding a certain disinclination among my colleagues to take up the matter, on the ground that it was a subject beyond their competence, that they were not authorized to communicate with the Agents of their Government at Belgrade, and that they were anxious to have some excuse for mooting the matter with their respective Chiefs, I sent to each of them the accompanying private letter and memorandum.

Yesterday, at a conference, they all informed me that they would call the attention of their respective Governments to the subject, and ask for instructions. Some of them added that they were convinced that the Mahommedan proprietors were being very unjustly treated, and promised to convey that opinion home.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 15.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Representatives of the Five Great Powers.

(Private and Confidential.)

My dear Colleague, *Therapia, August* 3, 1881.

I INCLOSE you the Memorandum I promised, embodying the griefs of the Mussulman proprietors of Servia. Their complaints may perhaps be exaggerated, but it is probable that there is a great deal of truth at the bottom of them. If so, the European Governments are certainly bound to see that justice is done to the Mussulman minority, whose private rights have been so distinctly guaranteed by the Treaty of Berlin.

Moreover, upon entering on our campaign on behalf of the Armenian and other Christian minorities in Asia, it is important that we should come into court with clean hands, and that the Porte should not be able to allege that the Great Powers have shown themselves indifferent to the well-founded complaints of the Mahommedan minorities in Europe who have passed under the jurisdiction of Christian Governments.

Lord Granville probably thinks that the Ambassadors at Constantinople will be able to form a clearer and more independent judgment upon this question after consulting with each other than could perhaps be arrived at independently by the Powers from the separate Report of the individual Agents at Belgrade.

You will, therefore, forgive me for calling your attention privately to the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 15.

Memorandum on Servian Agrarian Laws.

THE Mussulman proprietors of Servia complain that, contrary to the XXXIXth Article of the Berlin Treaty, they are being arbitrarily expropriated by the Servian Government, and compelled to sell their land at an absurdly low price. That no account is taken of the various descriptions of property thus dealt with, and that lands held in fee are sold at the same price as those held under a feudal tenure.

They also complain that the Commission conducting these expropriations is composed of three Servian members, in whose fair dealing and just valuations they can have no confidence.

As a consequence, they assert that property worth 1,000 ducats is only valued at 150 or 250 ducats, and forcibly sold.

No. 16.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 666. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 8, 1881.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 501 of the 21st ultimo, I have the honour to state that I have been informed that there is a ready disposition on the part of the Porte to release Prenk Bib Doda from his present confinement.

The Porte, it is stated, never attached any importance to the charges brought against this Albanian Chieftain, but they considered it proper to give effect to the desire of the Commander-in-chief, Dervish Pasha, that he should be imprisoned. As soon as a favourable opportunity occurs they will release him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 17.

(E) *The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 15.)*

(No. 673.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 9, 1881.*

YESTERDAY the Servian Minister called upon me, having heard from the Russian Chargé d'Affaires that I had spoken to him about the Agrarian Law of Servia.

M. Groutch proceeded to justify the conduct of his Government in this matter, saying that they had merely brought the new territory under the same agricultural régime as prevailed in the rest of Servia, and were emancipating peasants from a condition of serfdom analogous to that which prevailed in Russia.

I replied that I was not sufficiently acquainted with the facts of the case to be able to discuss the matter with him; that it was very probable the legislation he defended was both necessary and justifiable, and that the settlement of an agrarian question in all countries was attended with difficulty; but that, on the other hand, the proprietorial rights of the Turkish land-holders were guaranteed by the Treaty of Berlin, and that a general impression had undoubtedly begun to prevail that these persons were hardly meeting with fair treatment in Servia; that it would be most unfortunate if, at the very moment Europe was going to exert itself to obtain justice for the Christian minorities in Asia, the Ottoman Government should be able to reproach us with indifference to the ill-usage of the Mussulman minorities in those countries which have lately passed under the jurisdiction of Christian Governments; and that, if I might presume upon a suggestion, it would be to advise the Servian Government to deal with the matter in hand in such a way as to prevent the attention of Europe being attracted by complaints emanating from its Turkish subjects.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 18.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 420.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 11, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a translation by Mr. Michell of a letter which was published in the "St. Petersburgh Vedomosti" on the 9th instant, signed by General Ehrnrooth, late Minister for War in Bulgaria. It gives a very interesting account of his views on recent political events in Bulgaria, and of the part he himself took in them.

I had the honour to inform your Lordship, in my despatch No. 413 of the 8th instant, that the "Golos" newspaper, to which General Ehrnrooth alludes in his letter, had been suspended for six months, and that one of the reasons for its suspension was the manner in which it had criticized the recent acts of the Prince of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Extract from the "St. Petersburgh Vedomosti" of July $\frac{28}{\text{August 9}}$, 1881.

(Translation.)

THE St. Petersburgh "Vedomosti" of the $\frac{\text{26th July}}{\text{8th August}}$ 1881, contains the following letter from General Ehrnrooth, the late Minister for War, &c., in Bulgaria:—

"Sir,

"Referring to my re-entering the Russian army, a large newspaper,* published in this capital, considered it opportune to 'elucidate, as far as possible, the exceptional position which I occupied in Bulgaria.' It may be imagined what account would be given by a newspaper which persistently maintained that Prince Alexander's Proclamation of the 27th April last was a violation of the oath taken by him, and that the action of the Cabinet, of which I was the head, was illegal.

* The "Golos."

"I entered the Bulgarian service in April 1880, in compliance with the wish of His late Majesty. I stated to Colonel Shepeleff, who spoke in the name of the Prince of Bulgaria, as also to Count Miliutine, that I had no desire whatsoever to be appointed Bulgarian Minister for War; in view of my advanced years, and the rank I hold of Commander of a Division, there was nothing flattering in the above appointment. I was compelled, however, to bow to the will of the Emperor, who summoned me on the 11th March. The necessity of dispatching a Russian General, whether myself or another, was pressing. I communicated the substance of the conversation with which I was honoured by the late Emperor to Count Miliutine and Baron Shernvall-Wallen,* but I do not consider myself justified in giving publicity to it at the present time. I may state, however, that the opinion which I have heard expressed here and circulated in the press, that the late Emperor did not allow the possibility of an alteration in the Bulgarian Constitution being effected otherwise than at the initiative of the National Assembly, is quite erroneous.

"To affirm after this that I, as the Councillor and Coadjutor of the Prince of Bulgaria, should have acted exclusively on my own responsibility, is, to say the least, remarkable, even if the fact of my thirty years' service in the Russian army be ignored. In November month I handed in my resignation to Prince Alexander directly I discovered that my views in regard to the Railway question were at variance with the instructions given to the Russian Diplomatic Agent; I remained in office, however, on receiving an assurance that I might support my views without reference to the instructions given to the Agent.

"The anonymous author of the article respecting my appointment, in inquiring how far the action taken by me on the 27th April accorded with my personal ideas of duty and honour, does so with a purpose which is quite evident. The question, however, is put: did I act honourably? There is no country where the laws compel a military man to act contrary to his duty and honour; occupying as I did the post of a constitutional Minister, military discipline affected me only as regarded outward forms. Without suspecting me of idiocy or dishonesty, no one has the right to doubt that, if I accepted the political part that fell to my lot on the 27th April, such was not contrary to my ideas of duty and honour. On the contrary, it would have been inconsistent with my ideas of honour and loyalty both to the Prince of Bulgaria and the Czar of Russia if, after the return of the Prince to Sophia on the 16th April, I had insisted on leaving his service owing to the dissension which existed between myself, as Minister for War and Foreign Affairs, and M. Karaveloff, the Head of the Cabinet. My reluctance to continue in service in Bulgaria had long been known to the Prince, and during his stay in St. Petersburgh he spoke on the subject in the proper quarter; but in difficult times an honest soldier does not quit his post. It rested with the Prince of Bulgaria to accept my resignation and give himself into the hands of persons in whom he could not place the slightest confidence, or to follow the example of Prince Amadeus of Spain by simply leaving the country, which, of course, would not meet the views of the Russian Government, or finally to do that which was actually done. The right of the Prince to appeal to his people to choose between his abdication and certain conditions I considered, and continue to consider, as incontestable as the right of abdication.

"On the 19th April I submitted to the Prince a Memorandum, in which I pointed out the manner in which an issue could be found from the unenviable position in which the Prince was placed. I promised to remain in the Bulgarian service until the contemplated alteration in the Administration was effected, by which time I calculated that General Kryloff would arrive, to whom I could transfer the *portefeuille* of Minister for War. By the formal Act of the 1st July Prince Alexander was invested with the authority he demanded in the interests of his subjects. On the same day I requested the signature of the Ukase relieving me of all the appointments I held.

"I was not only the principal actor, but, I may say, the initiator of all the measures which during two months were carried out in order to insure the tranquillity of the country, as also to insure a faithful expression of the popular will. No pressure was needed for the elections; it was necessary only to induce the population not to stand aloof, and especially to counteract the illegal proceedings carried on by the clique of agitators—so-called Liberals—at the preceding elections. In such proceedings lay the whole strength of the clique styling itself the Liberal or National party, and which apparently enjoyed the sympathy of the St. Petersburgh Liberal press. I am not an advocate of the doctrine of universal suffrage, especially as adopted by the Bulgarian Constitution; but still less do I advocate perversion of opinion and the results of a national election.

* Secretary of State for Finland, Ehrnrooth being a native of the Grand Duchy.

"All the extraordinary measures introduced under my administration were accepted in the Council of Ministers in conformity with Article 47 of the Constitution; it was only in the case of introducing a state of siege in the districts of Plevna and Rahkoff that I issued personal orders on the receipt of intelligence that on the 14th June the authorities had been exposed to maltreatment. A few days later these measures were approved of by the Council and received the sanction of the Prince. I never demanded from my colleagues, ex-Russian officers, the execution of any illegal measures; on the contrary, I considered it my duty to cautiously avoid doing so. The part they took in the elections in the character of Sub-Commissioners was defined by an Ukase possessing legal force. Why these measures are considered to be so harsh I cannot understand; against untrustworthy officials, quite capable of abusing their power for treacherous purposes, harsh measures are justifiable. In reality, however, up to the present time not a single person has been shot, the threat alone sufficed.

"I consider it superfluous to answer all the insinuations with which the article in question abounds. The newspaper that did not hesitate to throw dirt at all the Russian officers in the Bulgarian service, and supported the lie as to their alleged agitation against the Karaveloff Cabinet, owing to their opposition to the military expenditure being controlled, remained true to itself.

(Signed) "Lieutenant-General Ernrooth."

No. 19.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 94.) *Scutari, August 9, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have learned with regret, as the matter may give serious offence at Cettinjé, that Dervish Pasha has thought it advisable to put himself into close and personal intercourse with the Montenegrin exile, Savo Djourachkovitch, who since the assassination of Danilo I has resided as a Turkish pensioner at Durazzo.

In my despatch No. 78 of the 30th June last, I had the honour of mentioning to your Lordship that the Djourachkovitch in question had been suspected in Montenegro of having been implicated in the recent murderous attack made at St. Petersburgh by his relative on one of the Aides-de-camp of the Princess Milena, and Dervish Pasha's ill-timed summons to him to visit him at Prisrend can only tend to remind Prince Nicholas of the favours shown by the Turkish Government to Djourachkovitch since the assassination of his uncle, and to revive recollections of well-known former intrigues of Dervish Pasha with the Montenegrin exiles in Albania against His Highness.

I am told that the ostensible reason for Savo Djourachkovitch's visit to Dervish Pasha is that his Excellency wished to give him a proof of his confidence, by naming him Chief of all the Bosniak, Herzegovinian, and other Mussulman Slav refugees now collected in Albania. The Montenegrin, who, I believe, is not disposed to rekindle his feuds with his fellow countrymen beyond profiting to the fullest extent on Turkish soil, from his presumed political leanings, has refused the honour which Dervish Pasha wished to bestow on him. I do not doubt, also, that Djourachkovitch is perfectly aware that he, as a Christian and a Montenegrin, would be utterly unable to exercise any control over the Mussulman refugees in question, and from personal prudential motives he has declined an appointment calculated apparently only to cause annoyance and alarm to the Montenegrin Government.

From an Oriental point of view, Dervish Pasha's sudden recollection of Savo Djourachkovitch's existence at Durazzo, when the St. Petersburgh incident occurred, and subsequent intercourse with him, is perfectly intelligible; but, I think, in the present day, it is better that the Turkish Pashas and other high functionaries on the European frontiers of the Ottoman Empire should be guided by Western and not Eastern habits, as long as it is desirable to maintain friendly relations with the neighbouring States.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 20.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 128.)

My Lord, *Sophia, August 6, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a letter addressed by the Prince of Bulgaria to General Ehnrooth on his Excellency's departure from Bulgaria, in which His Highness reviews the services rendered by the General, and expresses his heartfelt thanks, as well as those of his army and of the whole of Bulgaria, who will never forget what his Excellency has done for her.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 20.

The Prince of Bulgaria to General Ehnrooth.

(Translation.)

Your Excellency, *Sophia, July $\frac{5}{17}$, 1881.*

HAVING consented, with profound regret, to relieve you, at your own desire, from the offices and duties undertaken by you, I can never fail to remember with gratitude the time when you were the first to carry out my projects—my enlightened counsellor in all serious affairs, whether purely military or of a general character.

When you undertook the direction of the Ministry of War at the time of the disturbances excited by brigandage in the Eastern province of the Principality, and were granted extraordinary powers, by your speedy, prudent, and energetic measures you succeeded, in a very short space of time, in tranquillizing the province and securing the lives and properties of the peaceable inhabitants.

The time when you occupied the position of Minister of War was the time of the final organization of our army. The most important of the military laws were elaborated and put into force, new branches of the military establishment were formed, the administration of the army in all its points was brought to a corresponding degree of perfection, the construction of barracks and military edifices was begun and in part completed, and finally, the troops themselves, both in bearing and behaviour, attained a pitch of excellence which justified that great army, to which we owe our existence, in being proud of our soldiers.

During the past months special circumstances have compelled me to charge you with the direction of the Ministries of the Interior and of Foreign Affairs, and at the same time, to confide to you the Presidency of the Ministerial Council; thanks to your untiring efforts and to your energy, order and tranquillity have been secured in the Principality.

In expressing to you, Casimir Gustavoviteh, my heartfelt thanks, I am fully persuaded that I am giving expression to the feelings of my army, as well as of the whole of Bulgaria, who will never forget what you have done for her.

(In autograph),

With sincere esteem and gratitude,

(Signed) ALEXANDER.

No. 21.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 129.)

My Lord, *Sophia, August 6, 1881.*

DURING an interview which I had with the Prince of Bulgaria on the 2nd instant, His Highness alluded to the arrest of MM. Zancoff and Slaveikoff at Plevna. He said that he regretted that it had become necessary to have recourse to such a measure, but that the action of MM. Zancoff and Slaveikoff, in holding meetings at which they publicly advocated the non-payment of taxes, amounted to an incitement to rebellion, which the authorities were bound to prevent. MM. Zancoff and Slaveikoff had therefore been placed under arrest on their arrival at Plevna, and had been informed that they might select a town in the Principality for their residence, but that they would not be allowed to leave it. M. Zancoff had chosen Rustchuk, and was living there at present.

His Highness went on to say that the attempts of MM. Zancoff and Slaveikoff to create discontent had entirely failed, and that complete tranquillity prevailed throughout the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 22.

E *Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received August 20.)*
(No. 130.)
My Lord, *Sophia, August 7, 1881.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 37 of the 2nd June, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a note which I have received from M. Stoiloff, informing me that the Bulgarian Government had decided to take immediate measures to put a stop to the complaints of the Mussulman and Bulgarian inhabitants of Kustendil. A new Commission, composed of two Bulgarian and one Turkish member, will be appointed to examine the question, and to suggest the best means of remedying the present state of things. A term will be fixed for the conclusion of the work of the Commission.

M. Stoiloff has informed me that it is intended to appoint M. Natchowitz and M. Penkovitch as the Bulgarian members of the Commission, and the Mufti of Sophia as the Turkish member. The Commissioners will be called upon to report within a month of its formation. M. Stoiloff was of opinion that the best way of settling the question would be for the Bulgarian Government to buy up the proprietary rights of the Turkish land-owners, and to leave the land in the possession of the present Bulgarian occupiers, who would repay the Government by yearly instalments. He believed that this arrangement would give satisfaction to both parties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 22.

M. Stoiloff to Mr. Lascelles.

M. l'Agent, *Sophia, le 6 Août*, 1881.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que le Gouvernement Princier, au milieu des nombreuses occupation que lui impose la réorganisation du pays, pour donner une preuve de son ardent désir de remplir sa mission avec justice et équité, a résolu de prendre immédiatement les mesures nécessaires pour faire cesser les inquiétudes des habitants Musulmans et Bulgares du district de Kustendil. Leurs plaintes ont sérieusement attiré l'attention de Son Altesse mon auguste Maître, dont la principale préoccupation est d'assurer le bonheur des populations de ces contrées.

Le Gouvernement Princier a donc résolu qu'une nouvelle Commission serait constituée, qui s'inspirant d'un esprit de conciliation, agissant impartialement, examinera sur les lieux l'état de la situation et cherchera les moyens d'y porter promptement remède.

Cette Commission, M. l'Agent, se compose de deux membres Bulgares et d'un Turc. Un terme lui est fixé pour terminer ses travaux.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) C. STOILOFF.

No. 23.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received August 20.)
(No. 131.)
My Lord, *Sophia, August 8, 1881.*

NIHAD PASHA has informed me that he has received a despatch from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs asking for explanations with regard to a report which had reached Constantinople to the effect that, in consequence of an interview which he had had with the Prince of Bulgaria, and of the suggestions which His Highness had made, he had addressed a Circular to the Turkish Muftis in Bulgaria,

instructing them to use their influence at the elections to insure the return of Deputies to the Great National Assembly who would vote in favour of His Highness' conditions.

Nihad Pasha has replied by stating that he had no interview with the Prince of the nature referred to, and he repudiates, somewhat indignantly, the insinuation, that he had attempted, in consequence of His Highness' suggestions, to induce the Turks to vote for His Highness. He reminds the Minister for Foreign Affairs that, with the view of demonstrating the importance of the Turkish element in Bulgaria, he had recommended that the Mussulmans should elect Deputies of their own faith and nationality, and the result had been that in the recent elections, when the Mussulmans were left free to vote as they chose, sixty-one Turkish Deputies had been returned to the Great National Assembly; whereas, in the ordinary National Assembly, which is composed of half the number of Deputies, they had never numbered more than eighteen. He also points out that he had reported to the Porte that the Turkish Deputies, although personally in favour of the Prince, would be prepared to vote in a body in accordance with the wishes of the Sublime Porte, if any indication of such wishes were communicated to them. Having received no instructions on this point, Nihad Pasha had done nothing to influence the votes of the Turkish Deputies, and he was at a loss to understand how the report could have arisen that he had acted upon the suggestions made to him by the Prince.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 24.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, August 20.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 11 Août*, 1881.

PAR son télégramme responsif du 3 Janvier dernier, votre Excellence m'informait que le Gouvernement Britannique était tout disposé, d'après les déclarations de Lord Granville, à s'entendre avec les autres Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin sur la détermination du montant du tribut de la Bulgarie aussitôt qu'il serait officiellement informé par la Sublime Porte de l'acceptation par elle de la délimitation de la Principauté fixée par la Commission internationale.

Cette délimitation vient d'être confirmée par le Gouvernement Imperial, et votre Excellence en reçoit la déclaration officielle par le courrier d'aujourd'hui.

En communiquant cette déclaration à Lord Granville, vous voudrez bien prier sa Seigneurie de prendre les dispositions nécessaires en vue de hâter l'accord prévu par l'Article IX du Traité de Berlin.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 25.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 365.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 20, 1881.*

WHILE conversing with the Italian Ambassador this afternoon, I mentioned to his Excellency that I heard accounts from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople of the cordial and useful support which he received from Count Corti in the several questions which he had been called upon to discuss with the Porte and with his colleagues.

I said that it was very gratifying to me to hear of Count Corti's friendly conduct, which I felt sure was in accordance with the instructions he had received from his Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 26.

Consul-General Jones to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

E
(No. 41.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, August* 11, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to bring the following incidents to your Lordship's notice, as they serve to throw some light on Russian relations with this province and the neighbouring Principality.

The Russian Agents here endeavour—and not unsuccessfully—to correct the evil impression left on the community by the high-handed proceedings in Bulgaria, and which has considerably weakened and diminished Russian influence in this province.

Such of the Roumeliotes as have any fixed political opinions get them from the "Maritza" or the "Narodny Glas," the first-named journal representing the Moderate and Conservative and the other the Radical and Progressive programme. At first both united in denouncing the unconstitutional conduct of Prince Alexander; but of late the "Maritza" has taken its colleague to task, and remonstrated with it for aggravating the difficulty of the situation in Bulgaria, and advising that "prudence and patriotism should induce us Roumeliotes to abstain from every act which can exercise an evil influence on the affairs of the Principality, by retarding that quietude which all good patriots and men of sense must desire."

The chief arguments used by the Russian Agents to effect this change of sentiment are apparently, and as I am informed, that the modification of the Government was rendered necessary in the neighbouring Principality in the interests of Bulgarian unification, seeing that, for the attainment of this object, secrecy is indispensable, which the late form of government rendered impossible, as all correspondence with external agents and sympathizers on this subject was made public by it as soon as received, but that now they could address the Prince personally on such matters, and feel satisfied that the information given would not be divulged to the Agents of foreign Powers. That, moreover, the Roumeliotes know well that, however others may talk, Russia alone can be trusted to act, and on her alone can they count for material aid in accomplishing the national wish, on which account it behoved them to be cautious of giving offence or wounding her susceptibilities by abetting those who were hostile to her and the Prince whom she has chosen and supports.

I may here mention that Aleko Pasha lately proposed to the Permanent Committee to grant a subsidy to the "Narodny Glas," on account of its persistent and patriotic efforts in the national cause, and to compensate in some degree for the pecuniary loss it has sustained thereby from its circulation having been forbidden in Bulgaria. The Permanent Committee, however, reminded the Governor-General that should such a subsidy be granted on his recommendation he could not avoid being regarded as sharing, and, perhaps, instigating, the strong opinions of that journal on the Bulgarian question. The proposal was consequently withdrawn, but the knowledge that it was made has gone abroad, and considerably increased the distrust which exists between the Rulers of the two Bulgarian provinces.

The Director of Public Works Department in this province—Dr. Voulcovitch—found it convenient some short time since, consequently on a personal misunderstanding with the Governor-General, to resign his post, and was replaced by the former Prefect of Slivno—Dr. Stambolski—which nomination was confirmed by the Porte without hesitation. Dr. Voulcovitch has, however, been always known as a fervid partizan of Russia, and it was not to be expected that his claims on this account would pass unrecognized. Russian influence was consequently exerted at Constantinople and at Sophia to procure him some situation where his services might be used for the attainment of Russian aspirations. Prince Alexander immediately offered him the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in his Government, and joined therewith the Superintendence of Posts and Telegraphs; but, as there was good reason to expect that in the event of Prince Alexander thus choosing his advisers among the discarded Roumelian officials Aleko Pasha would retaliate by summoning to his councils the chiefs of the late Bulgarian Government, efforts were made to effect a reconciliation between the Governor-General and his late subordinate, previous to the latter accepting definitely the post offered him in Bulgaria.

In appointing Dr. Voulcovitch to any situation in the Government of the Principality, the Prince and his advisers can only have in view the strengthening of local Russian influence by making provision for a zealous partizan, and to prove to all interested that Russia will not abandon those who faithfully serve her. While in office here he manifested little capacity for aught save intrigue, and he has left the finances of the Department he lately administered in such an unsatisfactory state that his successor requires a

Special Commission to be appointed for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

No. 27.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 690.) *Therapia, August* 15, 1881.

My Lord,

AT the last conference I suggested to my colleagues that, as occasion served, we should recall the attention of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the case of the Janina "négociants," upon whom an extremely harsh sentence was passed for what was apparently a most inadequate offence, as noted in my despatch No. 531 of the 4th ultimo.

Count Corti informs me that he has again referred to the case, and that Assim Pasha has repeated the assurance his Excellency had already given to myself, that these unfortunate persons were still at Constantinople, and that their sentence was sure to be commuted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 28.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 694.) *Therapia, August* 16, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE already informed your Lordship by telegram that the Porte has undertaken to enter upon the liquidation of a certain number of the more pressing of the British claims recently brought to its notice by this Embassy. A list of these, amounting to something like 280,000*l.*, has already been furnished to your Lordship.

Yesterday I received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs a fresh assurance in the sense noted above.

His Excellency told me that in order to the desired effect had already been signed by the Prime Minister, and that in a day or two he would make me an official communication in writing on the subject. As soon as this reaches me, I shall be better able to judge to what extent the Porte is really prepared to carry out its promises, which, as far as words go, appear to be sufficiently satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 29.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

E
(No. 695.) *Therapia, August* 16, 1881.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY I touched on the case of Preuk Bib Doda with Assim Pasha.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs told me that the Prince was charged with encouraging his people not to surrender their arms when called upon by the Porte; that this was a grave offence in a person holding, as he did, an official position; but that the trial had not been allowed to proceed, in order that no conviction might be recorded against him; that the Government had offered him an honourable post in Asia Minor, preparatory to allowing him to return home; but that the young man had declined for the present to accept it, though they hoped eventually to induce him to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 30.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 436.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 17, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. de Giers expressed to me to-day much satisfaction at the contents of the papers which had been laid before Parliament with regard to Bulgaria, and said that your Lordship had most correctly rendered the contents of the despatch he had addressed to Prince Lobanow in the despatch which you did me the honour to address to me, marked No. 280 of the 18th ultimo. His Excellency, I am happy to say, also told me that my despatches had correctly interpreted the views he had expressed to me.

I remarked to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government appeared most anxious that Prince Alexander should use his new powers with moderation; to which he replied that he entertained the same wish, and that His Highness was not being counselled to assume autocratic power, which, indeed, would be contrary to his inclinations, as he wished that his authority should be shared as much as possible by others in the government of the country, but that the late Constitution was such as to render government impossible, and that the Prince could not abandon everything to persons such as M. Zancoff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 31.

Musurus Pasha to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 20 Août,* 1881.

LES Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin étant tombées d'accord pour qu'il fût procédé par un échange de notes à la confirmation des actes élaborés par les Commissions de Délimitation instituées en vertu du dit Traité, j'ai l'honneur de remettre à votre Excellence, ci-joint, avec Annexes, la Déclaration de la Sublime Porte, et de la prier de vouloir bien m'en accuser réception.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 31.

LES Actes suivants élaborés par les Commissions de Délimitation instituées en vertu du Traité de Berlin, savoir :—

1. L'Acte en date du 14 Août, 1879, fixant la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale;

2. L'Acte en date du 20 Septembre, 1879, fixant :
(*a*) La frontière Danubienne de la Bulgarie;
(*b*) La frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Turquie (Macédoine);
(*c*) La frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Serbie;

3. L'Acte en date du 17 Décembre, 1878, fixant la frontière Roumano-Bulgare (Dobroudja) avec les modifications des Articles 6 et 7 adoptées ultérieurement par les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, et spécifiées dans l'Annexe ci-joint; enfin,

4. L'Acte descriptif de la frontière de Serbie

Ayant été examinés par les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, et trouvés conformes aux dispositions de ce Traité;

Et les Puissances étant convenues de prononcer la sanction de ces actes au moyen d'un échange de notes entre les Cabinets;

Le Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, a l'honneur de déclarer par la présente que le Gouvernement Impérial confirme et sanctionne les Actes énumérés ci-dessus.

(L.S.) M. ASSIM.

Constantinople, le 11 Août, 1881.

Inclosure 2 in No. 31.

Modifications apportées aux Articles 6 et 7 de l'Acte en date du 17 Décembre, 1878, fixant la Frontière Roumano-Bulgare dressée par la Commission de Délimitation.

[See Earl Granville to Her Majesty's Representatives to Powers parties to the Berlin Treaty, August 9, 1880.]

No. 32.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 22,* 1881.

THE Turkish proprietors in annexed territory have telegraphed to Servian Government and the foreign Representatives here, requesting that all further proceedings of existing Commission may be stopped, and a Commission appointed conformably to Treaty of Berlin.

Text of telegram by post.

No. 33.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 593.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 22,* 1881.

IN your despatch No. 654 of the 4th instant, you report the language held by your Excellency to the Bulgarian Agent as to the policy which it was hoped that Prince Alexander would adopt in the future Government of the Principality; and I have to express the approval of Her Majesty's Government at the tone of your Excellency's remarks to M. Balabanoff.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 34.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 596.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 22,* 1881.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 673 of the 9th instant, reporting a conversation between your Excellency and the Servian Minister relative to the application of the Agrarian Law in that Principality.

Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the language held by your Excellency on that occasion, and the advice which you gave to M. Grouteh, that the matter should be dealt with in such a manner as to prevent the attention of Europe from being drawn to it by complaints from the Turkish inhabitants of Servia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 35.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 413.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 23,* 1881, 3·50 P.M.

MAJOR SALE is anxious to do anything he can to expedite settlement of Montenegrin frontier. Time for surveying this year is growing short.

Would it be of any use that he should come out to Constantinople?

No. 36.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 25, 3 P.M.)

(No. 353.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 25, 1881, 2 P.M.*

CAPTAIN SALE'S presence here will not advance matters. Austrian Dragoman reports that Iradé mentioned in my despatch No. 611 of the 20th ultimo is issued, but news not quite certain.

No. 37.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 33.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 25, 1881.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 91 of the 29th ultimo, inclosing the translation of a Proclamation issued by the Prince of Montenegro, inviting the Mahommedans who have emigrated from the recently annexed districts to return to the Principality.

I approve your having reminded the Montenegrin Government, in acknowledging the receipt of this communication, that it cannot affect the position of those proprietors who prefer to remain outside the Principality, and whose rights are secured by the XXXIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 38.

Major Ardagh to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 21. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Janina, Albania, August 11, 1881.*

APART from the progress of the delimitation of the new frontier, it may be interesting to your Lordship to hear what I have been able to gather relative to brigandage in this country.

I have now been in Janina for seventeen days. During that time the following events have been reported to me, and I have no reason to doubt their general correctness:—

1. About the end of July a Turkish officer was killed in a conflict with brigands.

2. About the 1st August forty persons alleged to be brigands were captured, and are now in prison at Janina.

3. Last week three inhabitants of a village beyond Metzovo were taken as hostages by brigands, and are now held to ransom.

4. Last night two inhabitants of the village of Bisdani, about half-an-hour from Janina, on the road to Santi Quaranta, were taken by brigands, and are now held to ransom.

5. To-day news arrived of the presence of a band of brigands near Dramesi, three hours from here.

6. Several hundred families of the district of Zagori, four to six hours from here, having abandoned their villages on account of the depredations of brigands, are now refugees in Janina.

7. Two brigands killed by the Greek troops near Kalarrytes last week.

This, I understand, is a fair specimen of what has been passing here during a considerable period.

Numerous bands of brigands, some of which number as many as 150, ravage the country and levy contributions on the villagers. The total number on the Thessalian frontier is now estimated at about 600.

Although brigandage has almost always existed to some extent in the Pindus and Olympus, it has during the last two years developed to a magnitude hitherto unknown. A variety of causes have concurred to favour its extension.

The Turks on the one hand allege that the Greek Government and Hellenic Societies have in past years organized bands for the purpose of keeping Thessaly and Epirus in a state of disturbance, and thus creating evidence of their discontent under Turkish rule.

The filibustering expeditions prepared in Greece which have made descents at Santi Quaranta and elsewhere give some confirmation to the Turkish statements, but I believe that this class of undertaking is now a thing of the past. The bands upon whom the mantle of the Klephts and Armatoles of the revolutionary war has descended are simply professional brigands.

On the other hand, the Albanian League in Epirus has been merely a movement promoted by the Turks to oppose annexation to Greece, and has frequently taken the form of a terrorism in the shape of brigandage, exercised on those districts which were suspected of Hellenic proclivities.

Similarly the Vlachs of the Pindus range, from the districts of Perivolia, Samarina, Afidela, and Voiussa, were incited to oppose the contemplated annexation. This movement was not a genuine one. The separatist tendencies of the Vlachs were fostered, if not created, by Roumanian national societies, which originally had only in view the laudable object of improving the education, preserving the language, and maintaining the national feeling of the scattered numbers of the race, but which became later the instruments of political movements for the purpose of restricting the extension of the process of Hellenization in the direction of Albania, an extension strongly disapproved of by a neighbouring Power, and, it is said, strenuously opposed. In return for impressing these views on the Vlach population of the Pindus, the Roumanians (according to those who hold this view) were to receive the Bukovina.

The Turks, too, favoured the anti-Greek agitation among the Vlachs, and the result in general was that bands were organized for the purpose of compelling the inhabitants (who, for the most part, were indifferent) to adopt these views. These bands rapidly degenerated into brigands.

Three classes, of what may be called political brigands, are thus accounted for, besides the ordinary proportion of the population addicted to predatory pursuits. These latter profited by the protection or immunity accorded to the Albanians and Vlachs.

During the Turco-Russian war, and again during the preparations for a possible war with Greece, local requirements were neglected, most of the police were withdrawn, and nothing was done to check brigandage.

The Christian villagers, not being allowed to carry arms, in consequence of their presumed insurrectionary tendencies, are unable to protect themselves, and they rarely invoke the protection of the troops, who, when sent to a village in pursuit of brigands, often neglect that duty and live at free quarters on the inhabitants, so that their presence becomes the worse evil of the two.

This misconduct seems far more due to the Pashas and officers than to the soldiers.

The greater number of the villagers, though they suffer, are thus compelled to come to an understanding with the brigands and furnish them with supplies; and the mountain shepherds, chiefly Vlachs, being entirely at their mercy, are necessarily obliged to live on good terms with them.

The authorities display a most reprehensible inactivity. Well-known brigands openly enter Janina, and purchase supplies and ammunition, and obtain information respecting the movements of suitable subjects for ransom by means of spies.

The country is now under martial law. Zeki Pasha, the General of Division commanding here (an inefficient youth, who owes his promotion to Palace influence), has about 4,000 men at his disposal, a number quite sufficient to suppress brigandage completely in a few weeks if properly employed. In the rare expeditions made against the brigands, instead of killing them on the spot, the authorities prefer to take prisoners, who, if they are rich enough, purchase their escape, and soon resume their avocations. Of the forty lately captured, it is not supposed that a single one will be executed.

The profession is now so lucrative and safe, that it is stated that an official of police at Trikala, seeing his employment about to be terminated by the cession of Thessaly to Greece, abandoned his position and took to brigandage, organizing a band which his experience has enabled him to direct with great success.

In giving your Lordship this general sketch of brigandage I have been obliged to quote hearsay reports, having, for obvious reasons, abstained from making any avowed investigation.

This terrible evil, which weighs on agriculture, commerce, and manufactures, could be easily suppressed by the vigorous action of an honest and capable man in a few weeks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. C. ARDAGH.

No. 39.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 100. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 11, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that my French, German, and Italian colleagues have had their attention directed by their Governments to the subject of the protest by the Turkish land-owners in the newly-acquired Servian provinces against the Agrarian Law and the manner in which it has been executed.

No distinct instruction to take any step in the matter has, however, been received by either of the three Representatives.

From what they have said, I gather that they do not anticipate their Governments will feel inclined to take any decided action in the matter. The Agrarian Law was reported on by them at the time of its enactment, and the Turkish complaints with regard to it have also been communicated at one time or another. They do not deny that there is doubtless cause of complaint, but they hardly regard it as sufficiently serious to call for the interference of Europe. In informal conversation with the Servian Ministers they have already, on one or another occasion, referred to the subject, and recommended that the land-owners should be fairly treated; but personally they evidently deprecate the idea of any formal or concerted action.

As it is not improbable that their views reflect, to some extent, those of their Governments, and at all events may react on them, I have thought it my duty to report the same.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 40.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 102.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 13, 1881.

M. PIROCHANATZ mentioned to me to-day in an unofficial manner that he had incidentally heard that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople had proposed that a joint representation should be made by the Representatives at Belgrade on the subject of the complaints of the Ottoman land-owners against the execution of the Agrarian Law. His Excellency seemed to regret it.

I replied that the same report had reached me, but that I had no direct knowledge of it. I suggested it would at all events be well that his Excellency should use every effort to bring the question to a speedy close, and should take measures to remove all cause of complaint, and I took the opportunity of inquiring what had been done by the Commission of Control lately appointed with this object.

He said that the Commission had already passed through two out of the four districts on which it had to report, and he expected it would soon return to the capital and inform him of the result of its labours.

It was impossible to deny that errors and acts of negligence had at times been committed, for which Servian authorities must bear their share of the blame. He was most anxious that justice should be done to all concerned. Where the Turks were the undoubted land-owners, it was right that they should be placed in possession of their lands, even if other lands had to be found for the actual occupiers.

In the districts of Vranja and Pirot all disputes were at an end, and both sides seemed pretty well content; with the same amount of energy and tact, a similar result might be obtained elsewhere.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 41.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 104. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 21, 1881.

THE Turkish Envoy placed confidentially in my hands to-day a despatch which he had addressed to the Porte, stating that the Representatives here of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin had received instructions to make a representation to the Servian Government on the subject of the complaints of the Turkish land-owners, but that they would be unable to do so till the return of the Prince.

The despatch went on to say that, in the opinion of the writer, nothing would come of the step—the Servian Government would promise everything and do nothing: the promises, however, would satisfy the Representatives, who would consider they had performed their duty, and would regard the question as, happily, at an end ("heureusement vidée").

A suggestion was then made that the Powers should delegate one of the foreign Representatives at Belgrade to act on their behalf in seeing that justice was done to the proprietors.

I took the liberty of inquiring of Khalid Bey to which of the foreign Representatives he referred as having already received instructions, as I, for one, had merely been requested to report. His Excellency replied that he understood an instruction of the kind had reached the Italian Legation, and the French Envoy, who had just returned to his post, was directed to support the cause of the land-holders.

I further learnt, in answer to my inquiries, that Khalid Bey would himself be prepared to accept the position which he had suggested should be held by one of the Representatives of the Powers at Belgrade.

His Excellency asked me what I thought of the suggestion. I answered that if his powers were limited to watching the proceedings of the Servian Commissioners, and supporting the claims of the proprietors, I feared he would make but small progress, and a fresh appeal would have to be made to the Powers. Personally, I was inclined to the opinion that the desired end might be obtained if the Servian Agrarian Commission were replaced by a Mixed Commission composed of Turkish and Servian members.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 42.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 106.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 22, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a translation of a telegram which was received yesterday at the Legations here of all the Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin from Suleiman Bey on behalf of the dispossessed Turkish proprietors in the district ceded to Servia. It may be presumed that this is the same Suleiman Bey who not long ago addressed a telegram to the foreign Representatives at Constantinople.

The present telegram embodies another addressed to the Servian Government, setting forth the complaints of the proprietors, announcing that transactions with the Servian authorities had been broken off, and demanding the appointment of a Commission to investigate abuses. The telegram to the Representatives terminates with an appeal to them to support their requests with the Servian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Telegram to the Turkish Minister and the Representatives of the Great Powers—Russia, Germany, France, England, Austria, and Italy, at Belgrade.

(Translation.)

TO-DAY we have sent to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Servia the following protest:—

For four years our property has been withheld from us and disputed. Thousands of processes require to be carried on, and thus we are losing all; no rents for the past four years have been received. We are in debt; our houses are ruined: half our property is sold without any valuation. At all the Courts and villages there are hundreds of lying lawsuits brought to condemn us, condemn the dead, condemn infants (in minority). All this is too much. The Agrarian Commission investigates to find a judgment just as they wish it; they will not accept any objections; they refuse to know anything, or to distinguish between common land, quality, or fruitfulness.

All is judged by the eye (lumped).

We are perishing! From to-day we break off negotiations with the Servian authorities.

From our Government (Ottoman) and the foreign Powers we require a Commission to investigate the abuses and injustice. The Government Commissioner (Servian), M. Marincovitch, is in vain, impracticable. We pray you to communicate with the Minister-President that the evil be stopped, and that our rightful relations be settled. We pray you to communicate with the Servian Government that the acts of the authorities be suspended, and that a Commission be appointed under the XXXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

(Signed) SOULIMAN TOUMVEROVIC
(Representing 350 proprietors and over 3,000 souls.)

No. 43.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 107.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 22, 1881.

HAPPENING to meet the French Envoy yesterday at the house of Khalid Bey, the telegram which had that morning been received at all three Legations from Suleiman Bey, in the name of the Turkish proprietors in the district ceded to Servia, came naturally under discussion.

Khalid Bey seemed to expect that we would at once act on the request made to us by the proprietors, and call on the Servian Government to stay the proceedings of the Agrarian Commission, or, at all events, if we could not take this step, that we would telegraph to our Governments for permission to do so.

This, however, we declined to do, expressing our conviction that our Governments were not likely to issue instructions of such a nature on the receipt of a mere telegraphic summary of a request addressed to us by Suleiman Bey. We expressed ourselves, at the same time, quite ready to speak with M. Pirochanatz in an unofficial manner on the subject of the telegram, and mention that we were transmitting it to our Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 44.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 108. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 22, 1881.

MY Italian colleague read to me to-day a Report which he had recently addressed to his Government on the subject of the petition which was addressed a short time ago to the various Governments by the Turkish proprietors in the district ceded to Servia.

The general tenour of the despatch was certainly not provocative of any vigorous action on the part of the Italian Government. He expressed in it an opinion that the petitioners had received their inspiration from the Turkish Representative here, who had thrown himself with considerable zeal into a cause of which his predecessor had finished by being pretty well tired. He stated that Khalid Bey had lately told him he was only awaiting the return of the Prince to open a campaign, and that he seemed to hope for the aid of his colleagues in an attack on the Agrarian Law itself; that, as to this, the text of the Law had been before the Powers and the Law itself in working for eighteen months, and he therefore conceived that this was not the moment for him, without instructions, to enter on the consideration of such a question. It had already been fully discussed between

the two parties directly interested. There was doubtless a good deal to be said from the Turkish point of view, especially with regard to the treatment of the holders of the lands referred to in Articles 4, 6, and 7, but it was a serious thing at this late date, when in two out of the four districts the lands had already been amicably transferred or handed back to their owners, to call for a revocation of the Law. In answer to the inquiry of his Government as to what course the British Representative was taking, he stated that he had only been instructed to report on the petition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 45.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 110.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 24, 1881.

M. PERSIANI, my Russian colleague, told me to-day that M. Pirochanatz, the President of the Council of Ministers, had shown him the reply which he had sent to the telegram addressed to him by the Turkish land-owners at Lescovatz. I understood him to say that it was to the following effect:—The Government would never, under any circumstances, listen to any proposal to supersede the Agrarian Law passed by the Skuptchina at the beginning of last year, but it had every desire that it should be equitably applied. If, therefore, the Mussulman land-owners believed they were being unfairly dealt with, they should state their grievances, but they must do so by citing each individual case, with name, place, and other necessary details, and avoid general accusations, of which the Government could take no notice.

M. Persiani told me that, from what M. Pirochanatz had said, he felt certain that the Servian Government would listen to no suggestion, from whatever quarter it might come, for proposing to the Skuptchina the abrogation or change of a law which had already been in operation for a year and a-half, and which had on the whole worked in a satisfactory manner in two out of the four districts of the new territory. But as regarded complaints against the mode in which the law had in particular instances been executed, the Government was not only prepared to give them the fullest attention, but was so desirous to satisfy them, that they would rather make pecuniary sacrifices than that they should continue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 46.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 701.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 18, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, by the order of His Majesty the Sultan, the Redifs in Albania, Epirus, and Thessaly, to the number of sixty battalions, have been disbanded. These troops will be embarked at Volo, and transported to the various districts from whence they originally came.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 47.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 725.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 23, 1881.

WITH reference to my previous despatches No. 676 of the 9th and No. 694 of the 16th instant, on the subject of certain British claims, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a note which I have received from the Porte to the effect that the Prime Minister has given orders for the payment of the claims upon the list in question by means of delegations or havalés.

For convenience of reference, I again subjoin the names of the claimants, with the sums due to them, amounting to a total of about 280,000*l.*:—

Varna Railway Company, 140,000*l.*; Sir Peter Tait, £T. 5,200; ditto, 235,000 piastres; Cuppa, Brothers, £T. 90,000; John Summa, over £T. 26,000; Matthew Dussi, £T. 27,000; Mr. Odoni, 15,000 silver medjidiés; Pietro Tedeschi, 250*l.*; Mr. Callinico, 28,000 piastres.

Yesterday I requested the foregoing gentlemen to meet me at the Embassy in Pera, and I communicated to them the terms of the Porte's note.

They all of them, though in different degrees, signified the disfavour with which they regarded havalés.

Mr. Timoni, the representative of the Varna Railway Company, observed that, though he did not like havalés, if they were issued on good provinces the proposed settlement might prove satisfactory.

Sir Peter Tait said that he had reason to hope that he was about to be paid in cash for his two smaller claims, but, though well aware of the suspicious nature of havalés, he was not prepared to say that, in satisfaction of his larger claim, he would not accept them.

Mr. Cuppa, though objecting to the havalés, said that he would take them if accompanied, as had been promised by Mr. Goschen, by a letter from the Ambassador to the Consuls requiring them to assist him in realizing their amounts.

Mr. Summa was represented by his agent, who had received express orders to refuse havalés.

Mr. Dussi was also represented by an agent, who had no authority to speak on his behalf.

Mr. Tedeschi expressed his willingness to accept the havalés if they were of a good sort.

Mr. Odoni had already written to me indicating the havalés in which he would desire tc be paid.

Mr. Callinico said that he had been already kept so long out of his money that he would be glad to accept the proposed havalés.

In discussing the matter, all the foregoing gentlemen said that they were well aware of the empty state of the Imperial Treasury, and that the Porte had been compelled the other day to raise a small loan of 200,000*l.* to pay its daily way, and many of them asked me my advice.

I told them that I entirely declined to take upon myself the responsibility of giving them any advice whatever; that I had done my very best for them, and was still prepared to make further representations in whatever sense they might suggest, but that they themselves must decide what course it was for their own interests to pursue.

After my interview with the claimants I repaired to the Porte, and informed the Prime Minister of the nature of my conversation with them, observing that the paper which the Porte had offered them seemed to be regarded with great suspicion by all, and had been absolutely refused by more than one; and that I hoped, when informing Her Majesty's Embassy of its intention immediately to proceed to the liquidation of these specified debts, the Porte had not been amusing me with the promise of an illusory settlement.

Saïd Pasha replied with great earnestness and solemnity of manner that the intended settlement would not be illusory, and that if the havalés were not cashed in the provinces, they should be cashed in Constantinople.

I propose to acquaint the creditors with the renewed and personal assurance thus given to me by his Highness, and I will acquaint your Lordship with the nature of the further observations which they may address to me on this important subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Note Verbale.

L.E. Ministère des Affaires Etrangères a l'honneur d'informer l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique que le Département des Finances vient de recevoir l'ordre de régler au moyen de délégations les créances des sujets Anglais indiquées sur une liste par elle remise.

Sublime Porte, le 18 *Août*, 1881.

No. 48.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, August* 29, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 20th instant, inclosing an original note signed by the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, whereby the formal adhesion and sanction of the Porte is given to the final acts of the International Boundary Commission instituted under the Treaty of Berlin, viz., one dated the 14th August, 1879, another dated the 20th September of the same year, a third dated the 17th December, 1878, and its subsequent modifications, as described in an Annex thereto attached; and finally, the Act describing the Servian frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 49.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 41.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, August* 18, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch which I have written to his Excellency the Earl of Dufferin, on the importance of the Porte's confirming certain measures voted by the last General Assembly of the Cretans, and particularly of the importance of its ceding to the Island Administration half of the customs dues, in conformity with the Convention of 1878. I had the honour of bringing this latter subject to your Lordship's notice in my despatch No. 40 of the 30th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, August* 18, 1881.

IN the inclosure of my last despatch to your Excellency dated the 30th ultimo I stated that it was the intention of the Vali of Crete to proceed to Constantinople, in order to induce Ministers to sanction the several Bills passed by the General Assembly. It now seems uncertain whether Photiades Pasha will go after all, as his Excellency has been requested by the Grand Vizier to defer his visit to the capital. I propose, therefore, to bring to your Lordship's notice those questions the settlement of which is most urgently required, as, unless some pressure is brought to bear on Ministers, they may be tempted to shelve Cretan affairs until they are reminded of them by the loud murmurings of the inhabitants.

Foremost in importance stands the Budget of the present financial year, on which I dwelt in the inclosure above referred to. The Vali informs me that the current revenue of the island suffices for the Administration to pay its way up to the ensuing October. After that date the payment of officials and of the police must fall into arrears. As the latter are now stationed away from their homes, it will be impossible for them to buy the necessaries of life without ready money, and desertion would soon become general and perfectly justifiable. It becomes, therefore, of pressing importance that funds be forthcoming to supply the deficit in this year's Budget. This deficit, amounting to £T. 30,277, should, according to the Convention of 1878, be reduced by the moiety of the local customs dues, the moiety being calculated at £T. 17,500. There is no denying that it seems hard that the Porte should have to part with half of the only local resource at its disposal for the maintenance of the island garrison, particularly when it finds that so considerable a sum as £T. 20,680 is this year to be spent on public works, of £T. 33,000 on schools. These sums, however, are, with two exceptions, derived from sources of revenue over which the Porte has no control, as will be seen from the following Tables:—

	£T.
Sums voted for Public Works—	
Half the accumulated interest of the Agricultural Bank from the year 1869 (extraordinary resource)	16,180
Half the annual interest accruing from the same Bank (ordinary resource) ..	1,500
Sum voted out of the annual receipts	3,000
Total	20,680
Sums voted for Education—	
Difference between the £ T. calculated at 100 piastres and 118 piastres on the payment of the officials during last year (extraordinary resource) ..	16,000
Part of the accumulated interest of the Agricultural Bank (extraordinary resource)	5,000
Half of annual interest accruing from same Bank (ordinary resource) ..	1,500
Sum granted by the Porte last year out of current revenue, but not employed (extraordinary resource)	5,000
Sum voted by this year's Assembly out of current revenue, but not sanctioned by the Porte (ordinary resource)	5,000
1 per cent. on salaries of employés, except police (ordinary resource) ..	500
Total	33,000

The two exceptions above noted are £ T. 3,000 voted for public works and £ T. 5,000 for schools, derived from ordinary revenue. Similar sums, however, were sanctioned by the Porte during the last two years, and in the former year half of the customs were ceded for the expenses of administration, so that a precedent for the vote is not wanting.

It would seem, therefore, that the Imperial Government can hardly avoid fulfilling the engagement it entered into with its Cretan subjects in October 1878, by ceding half the customs, and to do so without delay will be the surest means of preserving tranquillity in the country.

Some indignation was caused last year on account of the Porte's having modified the provisions made by the General Assembly for the payment of officials. The Assembly contends that it is exclusively competent to frame that part of the Budget, and that the Porte is encroaching on its rights in seeking to modify it, as it did last year in refusing to consent to certain reductions of salaries. This year's Assembly has not only re-enacted the reductions made last year, but has voted others besides; and though some officials, such as the Mutessarifs, Pashas, and the Judges generally, would seem to be underpaid, the Cretans contend that that is a matter which concerns themselves alone.

Perhaps the best feature of the legislation of last Session is that which concerns the liberal provision made for the construction of roads and bridges and for the extension of education. There has never been any serious attempt to keep in repair the numerous military roads opened by the Turks on the suppression of the insurrection of 1866-68. The plan now proposed is to throw four substantial bridges over as many winter torrents, the want of which sometimes interrupts communications for two or three days at a time, and to pay particular attention to the chief commercial routes. To supplement the funds voted for carrying out their programme, the Assembly ordained that every male adult should contribute two, three, or five days' work, according to his means, or the money equivalent. If really forthcoming, the manual labour is estimated to be worth an additional £ T. 9,000.

Two additional taxes were voted by the Assembly for the support of education, viz., (1) the universal obligation of taking out trades' licences which should embrace ordinary manual labour as well, the contributions being divided into six categories varying between 160 and 5 piastres (*1l.* 6*s.* to 9*d.*); and (2) a house and shop tax, levied at 1 per cent. on the rental, proprietors living in their own houses being exempted. No estimate of the produce of these two taxes has been hazarded.

I beg now to draw your Excellency's attention to the five points which formed the subject of my despatch of the 27th June last. These lack, indeed, the indispensable two-thirds vote of the Assembly, as the Mussulmans declared energetically against them, but the Porte can hardly ignore these demands without thereby creating a dangerous agitation in next year's Assembly, as the Christians are bent on obtaining at least some of them. To these five points may also be added the demand for the abrogation of the local law which pronounces sentence of banishment against any one who changes his religion, on which I dwelt in my despatch of the 20th June. This law dates from 1858, and was intended to discourage apostacy. The Christians demand the suppression not only of the penalty of exile, but also of the disability to inherit which attaches to all apostate Mussulmans. When the sacred law of Sheriat lays down principles at variance with the civil rights of all Ottoman subjects, expediency is the only plea which can be urged in their defence; but in a country like Crete, where the predominant influence is now Christian, such a plea can hardly be advanced. If a

Mussulman on becoming a Christian forfeits the right of inheritance, while the Christian who embraces Islam retains it, it is absurd to declare that the two religions are on an equality.

Some allowance should be made for the shortcomings and mistakes of the General Assembly. It serves a valuable purpose in forming in the Cretans the habit of self-government, and they have given evidence of two qualities which the Turkish administration, under which they have lived for upwards of 200 years, egregiously failed to foster, viz., (1) a sense of the importance of education and of easy means of communication for developing the moral and material welfare of the population; and (2) a regard for rigid economy in the public expenditure. With regard to the latter point, the Assembly has succeeded in gradually reducing the annual expenses of administration from £ T. 170,000 to £ T. 87,610. It was under the temptation of wishing to gratify the crowd of office-seekers, who are now almost exclusively Cretans; but it has resisted that temptation by suppressing many sinecures, besides greatly reducing the previous scale of salaries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 50.

E. MS. (No. 613.)

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 31, 1881.

BY Article IX of the Treaty of Berlin it is stipulated that the amount of the annual tribute which the Principality of Bulgaria shall pay to the Suzerain Court shall be fixed by an agreement between the Signatory Powers at the close of the first year of the working of the new organization, the tribute being calculated on the mean revenue of the territory of the Principality, and that as Bulgaria is to bear a portion of the public debt of the Empire, when the Powers fix the tribute they shall take into consideration what portion of that debt can, on the basis of a fair proportion, be assigned to the Principality.

The formal recognition of the boundaries of the Principality has, as I have informed your Excellency in my despatch No. 612 of this day's date, now been made complete by the adhesion of the Porte to the Final Acts of the Bulgarian International Boundary Commission, and the Turkish Ambassador has communicated to me a despatch which he has received from the Porte, of which I inclose a copy, begging that steps may be taken to carry out the provisions of the Article of the Treaty above referred to.*

I have accordingly to authorize your Excellency to join with the Representatives of the other Great Powers at the Porte in the consideration of this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 51.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, August* 31, 1881.

THE Porte having now given its formal adhesion to the Final Acts of the Bulgarian International Boundary Commission by the note which your Excellency communicated to me on the 20th instant, I am enabled to accede to the request which you conveyed to me on the same date that steps should be taken to carry out the stipulations of the IXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have accordingly authorized Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to join with the Representatives of the other Great Powers at the Porte in the consideration of the amount of the annual tribute which the Principality of Bulgaria shall pay to the Suzerain Court, and the proportion of the public debt of the Empire which should be borne by the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

×

* No. 24.